

CLAIMS

WE CLAIM:

1. An apparatus for intercepting and processing code on a communications channel comprising:

- a protocol parser; and,

- a proscribed code scanner;

whereby said protocol parser intercepts said code traveling on said channel and transmits said code for review by said proscribed code scanner.

2. An apparatus as in claim 1 further comprising a protocol scanner, whereby said protocol parser transmits said code to said proscribed code scanner through said protocol scanner.

3. An apparatus as in claim 2 whereby said proscribed code scanner further comprises a scanning means and an indicator means, whereby said indicator means provides an indication of the presence of proscribed code after scanning said intercepted code.

4. An apparatus as in claim 3, whereby said proscribed code scanner comprises a virus scanner.

5. An apparatus as in claim 1, wherein said protocol parser further comprises a configuration means for configuring interception parameters.

6. An apparatus as in claim 2, wherein said protocol scanner further comprises a configuration means for configuring interception parameters.

7. An apparatus for intercepting and processing code on a communications channel comprising:

- a protocol parser;
- a protocol scanner; and,
- a proscribed code scanner comprised of a scanning means and an indicator means;

whereby said protocol parser transmits said code to said proscribed code scanner through said protocol scanner, and whereby said indicator means provides an indication of the presence of proscribed code after scanning said intercepted code.

8. A method for processing code on a communications channel comprising:

- intercepting said code;
- scanning said code for the presence of proscribed code; and,
- providing an indicator for the presence of said proscribed code.

9. A method as in claim 8 further comprising the step of:

- returning said code to said communication channel if said indicator is negative.

10. A method as in claim 8 further comprising the step of:

- further indicating the presence of said proscribed code if said indicator is positive.

11. A method as in claim 8 wherein the step of intercepting said code further comprises intercepting the code according to configured parameters.

12. A method as in claim 8 further comprising the step of providing a separate system inserted in said communications channel, and with at least one of said steps of intercepting said code; decrypting said code; scanning said code for the presence of proscribed code, and providing an indicator for the presence of said proscribed code, occurring on said separate machine.

13. A method as in claim 8 wherein the step of scanning said code for the presence of proscribed code further comprises scanning said code for the presence of viruses.